cultivable land for non agricultural purposes including Special Economic Zones (SEZs). Land for SEZs is procured as per the policy and procedures of the respective State Governments.

(c) and (d) Though, there has been an increase in land under non agricultural uses yet, the "net sown area" in the country has remained approximately the same *i.e.* 141 million ha due to various interventions made by the Government.

Crop insurance for farmers

2038.PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to provide crop insurance for farmers dealing in tea, coffee, rubber, tobacco and spices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Governments have been asked to share the insurance premium for farmers benefiting from the scheme; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposed scheme is to cover growers of rubber, tobacco and spices with land holding up to 10 hectares and growers of tea and cardamom, with a land holding between 10-50 hectares. The farmers will be required to become a member of Price Stabilisation Fund Trust (PSFT) by paying a membership fee. The scheme is proposed to be implemented by the respective Commodity Board alongwith PSFT as the nodal agency in the Department of Commerce and by the Consortium of Insurance Companies.

(c) and (d) A Group of Ministers (GOM) constituted by the Government to consider the proposal on Crop Insurance Scheme for Tea, Rubber, Tobacco and Spices decided in its meeting held on 5th November, 2008 to discuss the issue of sharing premium subsidy between the Centre and the State Governments in the meeting of Chief Ministers of States. The reactions of the States would be known after the meeting of Chief Ministers of States.

Foodgrains production

2039.SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice, wheat and pulses produced in the country during the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08;

(b) whether this quantity is expected to increase during the year 2008-09; and

(c) the reasons for and efforts to back the expectations to turn into reality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The quantities of rice, wheat and pulses produced in the country from 2005-06 to 2007-08 are indicated in the table below: